

Appl. No. 09/931,434

Amendment dated December 12, 2003

Reply to Office Action of September 12, 2003

REMARKS

1. Claims 6 - 13 are in the case. Claims 1 - 5 have been cancelled. Claim 6 has been amended. Applicant has added new claims 7 - 13. No new matter has been added by the amended and new claims. I do not believe that any additional filing fees are due; however, should there be any additional fees due, please charge Deposit Account No. 11-0245.

2. The Examiner stated that claim 6 was objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim. Applicant has amended claim 6 so that it is now an independent claim and it includes all of the limitations of the base claim. While applicant has removed some of the limitations from the original claim 6, Applicant believes the remaining elements are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references.

3. Based on the above amendments and remarks I believe that all of the claims remaining in the case are allowable and an early Notice of Allowability is respectfully

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requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference will expedite the disposition of this matter he is respectfully invited to contact this attorney at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

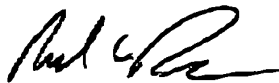


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Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8.

I hereby certify that this correspondence (Amendment & Response consisting of six (6) sheets) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on December 12, 2003.



Russel O. Primeaux

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